ऋणों पर ब्याज दर में वृद्धि और (iv) आयात वित्त पर ब्याज दर अधि प्रभार।

हस्तक्षेप के परिणामस्वरूप, रुपया-डालर विनिमय दर उन स्तरों पर स्थिर हो गई जो मूलभूत आंकड़ों के अनुरूप है। एफ०ई०डी०ए० आई० सूचक दरें एक नवम्बर, 1995 से 35 रुपए प्रति डालर से नीचे बनी हुई हैं। विदेशी मुद्रा के प्रवाह के उपायों के सकारात्मक प्रतिक्रिया देने की संभावना है जिनका उद्देश्य विदेशी मुद्रा की आपूर्ति को बढ़ाना तथा मांग में कमी लाना भी है।

Special Audit of STC and MMTC

223. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that special audit is being conducted on various export deals of State Trading Corporation and Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation; and

(b) if so, what are details of the deals which have been audited and what are the details of the Audit/Report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) to (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha, as soon as it is available.

Amount released by DAVP for Advertisement to Newspapers Published in Rajkot

224. SHRI GOPAL SINGH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION & BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total amount released by DAVP for advertisement to newspapers published in Rajkot city during the year 1990-91, 1991-92, 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95;

(b) what are the rates per CM/column fixed by DAVP for such newspapers; and

(c) what is the logic behind such fixation of rates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) The expenditure committed on release of advertisements by DAVP to newspapers published in Rajkot city during the years 1990-91, 1991-92, 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95 is as under:—

Years	Amount (Rs.)
1990-91	6,85,546
1991-92	9,91,050
1992-93	13,09,296
1993-94	14,17,994
1994-95	9,41,026

(b) and (c) The advertisement rates are fixed on the basis of a formula devised by an expert Committee known as the Rate Structure Committee. The formula is worked out by the Committee after undertaking an indepth study of the costs involved in the production of newspapers. The advertisement rates vary from paper to paper, depending upon their circulation.

Revival of flights to Kanpur

225. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to revive all the flights to Kanpur; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) Due to crew constraint, Indian Airlines is, at present, not in a position to reintroduce its services to Kanpur.

Reduction in Excise Duty

226. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of instances since 1993-94 where sellers and traders have lowered their prices consequent to the lowering of excise duties by Government;

(b) the number of instances where sellers and traders have refused to effect any downward trend in the prices despite decline in the rate of excise duties or have refused to lower prices by the same proportion; and

(c) the measures Government propose to undertake aqainst the delinquent traders and sellers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) and (b) Excise duty is levied at production point and there is a long chain of intermediaries between production point and the consumer, who add their cost and profit to the ex-factory prices. The price of commodities depends on multiplicity of factors including cost or production, demand and supply interplay, level of taxation, prices of competitors products etc. Excise duty is, therefore, only one amongst several elements which determine the commodity price. Hence, changes in the excise duty rates on specific commodities may not translate into proportionate changes in their market prices. It is, therefore, not feasible to exactly co-relate the reduction in prices corresponding to the reduction of excise duty by the Government.

After presentation of the 1993-94, 1994-95 & 1995-96 Budgets, Bureau on Industrial Costs & Prices was asked to conduct a quick study of a few selected commodities and as per their reports the following industries have not passed the excise duty concession in full to the consumers:—

1993-94

1. Man-made fibre
2. Drugs
3. Cosmetics

1994-95

1. Floor coverings
2. Glazed Ceramic tiles & ceramic articles
3. Paints (some units)

1995-96

1. Hair Oil
2. Aerated Soft Drinks.

(c) In view of above, it is not feasible to enforce through legal mechanisms a reduction in prices corresponding to the reduction of excise duty. However, the Ministry of Civil Supplies, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution and other administrative Ministries hold discussions with trade and industry and take other measures in this regard and also monitor prices.

Constitution of a working Group of R.B.I.

227. SHRI S. AUSTIN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has constituted a working group to analyse the various schemes and incentives for Non-Resident Indians;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the working group is likely to submit its recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. A working Group was set up by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on 14.10.1994 with representations from RBI and Government. The working Group was constituted to review the various schemes and incentives available to Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) for investment in India, the operative procedures and to recommend modification/amendment to the schemes and procedures as considered necessary to the Government of India.

(c) The Working Group has submitted their recommendations to the RBI in May, 1995.

RBI's Committee for Improved Customer Service

228. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:
SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state: